

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00874 251033Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12
SP-02 L-03 OES-07 /063 W
-----038677 251046Z /10

P R 250910Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9483
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PASS AID/W AND PEACE CORPS/W

ADCOR ROME FOR RODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, FAO, AORG
SUBJECT: FOOD CORPS PROPOSAL

REF: A. 77 STATE 301059; B. BAMAKO 0096; C. YAOUNDE 0078;
D. STATE 27088

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS VIEWS OF ADO AND PEACE CORPS/NIAMEY.
POST APPLAUDS REALISTIC, THOROUGH AND CANDID RESPONSES
CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C. BELIEVE COMPLICATIONS CITED
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REFTELS IN CREATING NEW FOOD CORPS MAY OUTWEIGH THE
ADVANTAGES. IN PARTICULAR, LIKELIHOOD OF OBTAINING LOCAL
VOLUNTEERS FOR PROGRAM IN NIGER IS VERY SLIM, GIVEN
PAUCITY OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED NIGERIENS AND THE
INCREASING DEMAND FOR THOSE WHO ARE AVAILABLE TO
SERVE IN REGULAR POSITIONS COVERING THE VERY AREAS
THAT WOULD BE ADDRESSED BY FOOD CORPS.

2. THE VARIETY OF EXISTING OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE DONOR PROGRAMS, WHICH RUN THE GAMUT FROM PROVIDING (A) PURELY HIGH-LEVEL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, TO (B) A MIXTURE OF HIGH-LEVEL AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER AND EX-VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL, TO (C) PURELY VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE, APPEAR TO OFFER SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE VEHICLES FOR SUPPORTING HOST COUNTRY EFFORTS AND TECHNICIANS AND MEETING THE GOALS ESPOUSED FOR THE FOOD CORPS. IT IS NOTED THAT THE PROGRAMS OF THE ENTIRE DONOR COMMUNITY ARE ALREADY TARGETED AT THOSE AREAS OF CONCERN DELINEATED IN PARA 1, REF (A) AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE FOOD CORPS WOULD STRENGTHEN THESE PROGRAMS. IN FACT, INTEGRATING A NEW BUREAUCRACY AND CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS INTO EXISTING REGIONAL, HOST COUNTRY AND DONOR STRUCTURES WOULD PROBABLY PROVE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WHICH COULD AVOID ABOVE PROBLEMS WOULD BE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, AS NEEDED, THROUGH THE OPG AND/OR OTHER MECHANISMS, TO EXISTING VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHICH HAVE SOLID TRACK RECORDS AND ARE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES OF THE TYPE PROPOSED FOR FOOD CORPS. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS COULD INCLUDE LDC AND DC VOLUNTEER GROUPS, PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. REGRET DELAYED RESPONSE REF (A).
DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1978.JAMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NIAEMEY00874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-1163
Format: TEL
From: NIAEMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780212/aaaaakfu.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1899b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 301059, 78 BAMAKO 96, 78 YAOUNDE 78, 78 STATE 27088
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3474425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOOD CORPS PROPOSAL
TAGS: AORG, UN, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1899b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014